

MAO et al.
Ser. No. 09/810,825
Page 2 of 11

Amendments to the claims:

- 0 to 2004
but
2/10/04
1. (currently amended) An electrostatic comb drive comprising:
a base;

a movable element movably connected to the base and configured to move from a first stable position to a second stable position relative to the base;

a spring disposed between the base and the movable element and configured to provide a potential energy maximum between the first stable position and the second stable position;

a fixed finger attached to the base, the fixed finger having a first portion proximate to the base and disposed between the base and a second portion of the fixed finger; and

a movable finger attached to the movable element, the movable finger having a third portion proximate to the movable element and disposed between the movable element and a fourth portion of the movable finger, a first capacitance arising between the fixed finger and the movable finger when the second portion is adjacent to the fourth portion and a second capacitance arising between the fixed finger and the movable finger when the second portion is adjacent to the third portion, the first capacitance being greater than the second capacitance.

2. (original) The electrostatic comb drive of claim 1 wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion and the fourth portion is wider than the third portion.

3. (original) The electrostatic comb drive of claim 1 wherein the second portion is at least three times as wide as the first portion.

4. (original) The electrostatic comb drive of claim 1 wherein the first portion is less than four microns wide and the second portion is greater than six microns wide.

5. (currently amended) An electrostatic comb drive comprising: